

# MINUTES OF THE NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 22, 2003

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Those in attendance were:

Roger Korell, Chair	Ron Fleecs
Jim Van Marter, Member	Marlin Petermann
Wayne Madsen, Member	John Miyoshi
Don Roberts, Member	Mike Murren
Robert Hahn, Member	Nelson Carpenter
Garry Anderson, Member	Mike Sotak
Richard Hadenfeldt, Member	Tom Mountford
Vince Kramper, Member	Scott Nelson
Beverly Donaldson, Member	Bob Hilske
Richard Jiskra, Member	Mike Onnen
Joseph Hergott, Member	Glenn Johnson
Arlond Garratt, Member	Roger Patterson, Director
Clint Johannes , Member	Tom Pesek, Staff
LeRoy Pieper, Member	Dave Vogler, Staff
Dan Watermeier, Member	Gayle Starr, Staff
Steve Oltmans	

## CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair, Roger Korell, called the meeting to order in the conference room of the Lower Platte South NRD in Lincoln, Nebraska, at approximately 10:30 a.m.

## NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Notice of the meeting was placed in the LINCOLN JOURNAL & STAR on May 15, 2003, notifying the public of the meeting.

## INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL

The following items of informational material were distributed during the course of the meeting and a copy of each is attached to the file copy of the minutes.

1. Exhibit B – NRDF Project Components and Request for FY 2004 Funds.
2. Water Well Decommissioning Cash Fund Summary.
3. Nebraska Resources Development Fund Present Financial Status.
4. Status of Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund
5. Soil & Water Conservation Fund – Expenditures by Month, 1995-2003.
6. Republican Basin Water Meter Program status report.
7. Natural Resources Water Quality Fund Distributions
8. NRCS Report to the NNRC and NARD.

## MINUTES

Motion was made by Kramper and seconded by Van Marter to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2003, Commission meeting as distributed. Motion carried.

Aye: Watermeier, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Jiskra, Pieper, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Davis

### EXPENDITURES

Gayle Starr noted that an expenditure report covering the various funds for the months of March and April 2003 had been distributed to Commission members.

### ADVISOR'S COMMENTS

Vince Kramper noted that NRCS State Conservationist Steve Chick had to be at another meeting but had asked him to distribute a report to the Commission, which covered several topics relative to current NRCS activities.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Roger Patterson noted that the water supply along the North Platte River had improved to the point where the May 1 estimate by the Bureau of Reclamation was that about a 90 percent water supply would be available in that area. He added that while there had been some recent good rains in the Republican Basin, the water supply for surface water projects in that basin was very limited with several irrigation projects providing only a minimal water supply or a supply to only a portion of their area.

### ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Vince Kramper noted that the next meeting of the Trust was July 30 and 31 in South Sioux City. He added that the Environmental Trust Board was reviewing the criteria being used to evaluate applications and was looking for public input on that topic. He also added that the Board was considering ways to improve the public awareness of the Environmental Trust.

### WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

Roger Patterson noted that the Task Force is continuing to meet and is soon to consider some of the more difficult questions they will need to address. He added that he is optimistic that the Task Force can arrive at some recommendations to be finalized by their deadline at the end of the current calendar year.

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Robert Hahn indicated that Tom Pesek had reviewed the Resources Development Fund status report with the committee and the committee had four separate recommendations involving the Resources Development Fund for Commission consideration.

Hahn indicated that a draft of the letter to the sponsors of the Ponca Flood Control Project had been reviewed by the committee. Motion was made by Hahn and seconded by Kramper to advise the City of Ponca that it may proceed with an application and feasibility report for the Ponca Flood Control Project and that it is to address the comments and questions contained in a letter from the Director of Natural Resources. Motion carried.

Aye: Watermeier, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Jiskra, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Davis

Hahn added that the committee had also reviewed a draft letter from the Director concerning the Turkey Creek Watershed Project being sponsored by the Nemaha NRD. Motion was made by Hahn and seconded by Watermeier to advise the Nemaha NRD that it may proceed with an application and feasibility report for the Turkey Creek Watershed Project and that it is to address comments and questions contained in the letter from the Director of Natural Resources. Motion carried.

Aye: Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Jiskra, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Watermeier, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Davis

Hahn stated that the committee had considered the staff recommendation to delete the requirement that a ring levee around Camp Ashland be constructed as a condition for funding the Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Project. He added that the National Guard has chosen to not do a ring levee but to do a 50-year levee along the river on their Camp Ashland property, which would meet the requirements for the project. Motion was made by Hahn and seconded by Pieper to rescind the requirement regarding

the Camp Ashland ring levee that was included in the Commission's approval action on the Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Project at its meeting on July 25, 2002. Motion carried.

Aye: Van Marter, Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Jiskra, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Watermeier, Madsen, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Davis

Hahn explained that Robert Moeller of the Lower Loup NRD had explained to the committee their request for an increase in their project allocation. Motion was made by Hahn and seconded by Hadenfeldt to approve the Lower Loup NRD's request for an increased allocation of \$7,941.78 for component #2 (final design), \$63,791.28 for component #4 (construction, structural), and \$12,326.58 for component #5 (construction, recreation), increasing the total project allocation by \$84,059.64 from \$535,635.45 to \$619,959.09. Motion carried.

Aye: Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Jiskra, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Watermeier, Madsen, Van Marter, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Davis

Hahn indicated that the staff had recommended to the Program Committee that no action be taken with regard to establishing project components and tentatively obligating funds because of the fact that the budget for the Resources Development Fund had not yet been finalized.

Hahn explained that status reports for the Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund, Soil & Water Conservation Fund, and Water Well Decommissioning Fund had been provided to Commission members and reviewed by the staff at the committee meeting.

#### LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET COMMITTEE

Dave Vogler indicated that the only item of legislation that had been passed since the last Commission meeting of interest to the department was LB 619, which had been amended to add a number of provisions relating to natural resources that had previously been contained in other bills. He briefly reviewed each of the provisions that were included in LB 619.

Gayle Starr briefly reviewed the budget situation for the upcoming biennium indicating that the Legislature has passed a budget bill and a tax increase bill and forwarded them to the Governor and he has indicated he would act on the bill by Monday, May 26.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission will be July 8 & 9 in Chadron. Gayle Starr briefly reviewed the arrangements for the meeting that have been made by the Upper Niobrara-White NRD.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately noon.

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Chair

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Director of Natural Resources

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